

Cranberry Lake Ground Water Contamination

Lakeview Trail & Hillcrest Trail Area Byram Township Sussex County

BLOCK: Various **LOT:** Various

Community Relations Coordinator: Mark Herzberg (609) 633-1369

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Cranberry Lake is a recreational lake surrounded by a densely populated community where many of the residents rely on private wells for potable water supplies. In 1990, low levels of chlorinated volatile organic compounds were discovered in several private wells at residences on the northern end of the lake. Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) systems were installed with funds provided by NJDEP on the two wells that were contaminated at levels exceeding New Jersey Drinking Water Standards. Sampling conducted by the Sussex County Health Department and NJDEP's Remedial Response Element between 1997 and 2000 identified nine private potable wells in the area that were contaminated with methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) at levels exceeding the Drinking Water Standard for this compound and POET systems were also installed in these homes. Based on the sampling results, NJDEP delineated the Currently Known Extent (CKE) of the potable well contamination. The chlorinated volatile organic and MTBE contamination are believed to have resulted from one-time discharges by unregulated parties (i.e., surface spillage by a resident), therefore a source investigation is not planned. Since the local water purveyor is not able to provide water service to any additional residences in the area, the continued use of POET systems at the affected residences has been selected as the long-term remedy for this site. NJDEP is periodically sampling private potable wells outside the CKE to monitor ground water quality.